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LYONDEL GARDENS
Morgantown, West Virginia

Hybridizer:
Nell Lanham Leonian

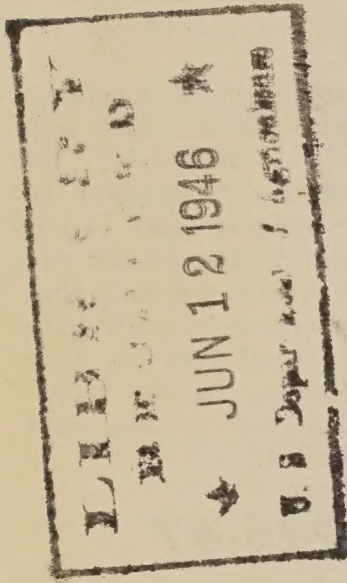
offer to a select clientele TODAY
the masterpieces of TOMORROW:

DELPHINIUMS
DAYLILIES
ORIENTAL POPPIES

All seeds cross pollinated by hand.
Colors that are different; form and
texture that are surprises.

1946-47

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To Our Friendly Customers

ALMOST A YEAR has gone since Mr. Leonian's death and the announcement that we, his wife and son, would carry on the work with the flowers. It has been a great deal of help to us that you have stood by during the past months and a real comfort that so many of you took time and energy from busy lives to write to us. Some of the letters we were able to acknowledge in later correspondence, some not, but it has meant much to us to read the fine things you said about my husband and his work. To realize that there are so many kindly people in a rather limited group of flower lovers does something to one's morale. For the part you played we are grateful and we thank you wholeheartedly.

However, all this does not mean that we expect anything but a strictly business relationship from here on in. This will be our first year alone in the work and our real test. Of course, we'll make mistakes which we shall do our best to rectify but we shall expect to grow by training and experience. We hope this growth will show itself in the plants you get from Lyondel seeds. If, after a few years, we find that we have really gone on from where Mr. Leonian's work with delphiniums, lilies and poppies left off we shall feel the true satisfaction that comes with a job well done. In the meantime we shall have added to the beauty in your gardens and acquired friends for ourselves — a rich reward.

To Introduce the 1946-47 Catalogue

It is with a great deal of hesitancy that I set about writing the Lyondel catalogue for the coming year. I am sure you will expect it to be different in tone from the ones you have received in previous years. You will miss the frank, though friendly, scoldings you sometimes received through its pages — scoldings you did not mind too much because, in your dealings with the author over a period of time, you learned that he was fair and honest as well as frank. Often your letters have indicated that you enjoyed the style Mr. Leonian used because through the catalogue you became better acquainted with the personality behind the flowers he produced. Certainly, I shall not expect to take his place as an authority on flower culture just yet. For that reason I am going to copy his notes on how to go about the production and care of plants from our seeds. I shall also copy, for this year, his description of the various groups under which we sell seeds. As last year there will be no Connoisseur Series offered though as was true during 1945 those who order late for indoor planting will get them very largely from the plants grown in our garden from last summer's seed.

I shall omit the section "What Others Say" until such time as what you say applies to that which the present hybridizers in Lyondel Gardens produce. Just the same I want you to know that your good letters which came along with the very early orders last year gave both Mr. Leonian and me a great deal of satisfaction.

With the exceptions noted, this first catalogue will be an informal letter from me to you.

Join the American Delphinium Society

and see the latest in the world of delphinium. Dues \$2.00 per year. Stanley Ohala, secretary, 1260 West Road, Highland Park, Ill. The date for the Delphinium Show in Chicago is set, tentatively, for June 22, 1946.

About The Lyondel Hybrid Delphiniums

As most of you know all of the worthwhile strains of Delphinium have gone into the making of Lyondel Hybrids. Beginning back in 1927 with some seedlings from Mr. Vanderbilt, which, with the best he could raise from some English seeds, constituted his first stock, Mr. Leonian began to work with flower development as a hobby. As he heard of other things through the literature or advertisements he tried them. All through the years he followed that policy and thereby arrived at the Lyondel Strain as you knew it in 1944.

A few years back Leon and I discussed the advisability of my learning the process of cross pollenization as a help to him and a means of livelihood should anything happen to him while the three boys were too small for me to take a position outside my home. For many years I have helped him in the garden and have assumed more and more responsibility for details which would save his time. I had not, however, had responsibility for the breeding program except when he would be away from home, but I was able to do it when need arose. Then, when Leon's first real illness came I worked with him sometimes, and sometimes under his direction alone. Though, at first, he seemed a little surprised that my efforts really produced seed, he seemed happy that I could go along with his flower work. In the meantime, Armen was ready for college and had decided to become a flower breeder. He and his father planned a course of study in Agricultural Science which would help with his work and the program started off happily. So here we are working together to carry on until such time as Armen is fitted by training and experience to take over.

I tell you this little story so you will see that we are not exactly new at the business; neither do I want to leave a false impression as to what you may expect. We feel that you who need seeds this year will try ours because we have the same high ideals in parent selection, the same "survival-of-the-fittest" program, the same element of surprise to look for, the same plan for producing tomorrow's delphiniums today. All we ask thru this pamphlet is that you try ours this year; compare them with others you know; then continue to get Lyondels so long as they keep the place in your garden they earned through my husband's years of work for their development.

How to Grow Delphiniums Successfully

"The first thing to do is to find out in which zone of delphiniums you are located. There are four of these: the annual, the biennial, the short-lived perennial, and the true perennial. In Florida and certain parts of the South delphiniums are strictly annuals, dying off after the first display of bloom. In certain other parts of the South they behave as biennials; in most parts of Midwest they are biennial or short-lived perennials, while in North they are true perennials. Once you determine your zone, you will know what to expect and spare yourself all kinds of disillusionment. Having determined this, there remains another important factor: are you located in the fall-sowing or spring-sowing zone? Where seasons are short and July and August are likely to be warm and dry, fall-sowing may be disastrous, and spring should be the time to sow the seeds. Therefore you should purchase your seeds in the fall, put them in tightly stoppered vials, and keep them

in the refrigerator. The next spring they will germinate just as well as if they were freshly harvested. But if your season is long enough for the seedlings to grow for at least two months before freezing weather arrives, then you may sow your seeds about the middle of September when cooler and rainier days arrive. If your season is cool enough, the seeds may be sown the first week in August, rarely earlier. In any case you are strongly urged to sow half of your packet of seeds in the fall, and the other in the spring, particularly if you are in doubt about your zone.

Excessive rains play havoc with young seedlings, therefore seedbeds should be given glass protection against the rains. The glass should be covered with one thickness of burlap to cut down the intensified heat of direct sunshine. A free circulation of air being essential, the glass should be tilted up all the time. The rain will run off the slanting surface without reaching the seedlings, and the air will continue to circulate and thus prevent a dead atmosphere which is conducive to the appearance of all sorts of harmful bacteria and fungi. Light has no effect on the germination of delphinium seeds; let there be light.

Use deep flats to start seedlings, or flower pots if you have but a few seeds. Place gravel in the bottom to afford drainage, and fill up with any good garden soil, preferably one taken from under a well established sod. The soil should be neutral, neither acid nor alkaline. If you are in no position to determine this, you may go on the assumption that any good garden soil is good enough for delphiniums. Add one third sand to two-thirds of soil to improve the texture. Avoid peat moss, sphagnum moss, woods' dirt, wood ashes, leaf mold, manure; *never, never* use any fertilizer; just soil and sand, and you are safe. Place a pinch of Semesan in the seedpacket, shake well, and sow *thickly* right on the surface of the soil, press down firmly by a piece of 2 x 4, and cover with soil not deeper than twice the diameter of the seed. Plunge the flat or the pot part way in water and allow the capilarity to bring the water to the surface of the soil; then remove from the water, allow to drain, and put it in a sheltered place, preferably a cold-frame with glass and burlap protection. Fence the cold-frame against animals. Never allow the surface soil to dry; it is fatal. Overwatering is equally fatal. After the seedlings come up (10 or 15 days), water them with Semesan solution, one level tablespoonful to the gallon. This prevents post-emergence damping-off. Use enough of this solution to moisten the surface soil not more than one-fourth of an inch deep.

Where seeds are sown in the fall, the seedlings may be left undisturbed until the following spring. But if seasons are long, the seedlings may be transplanted into bands and later on into the field. In case of spring sowing, one transplanting prior to fielding out is recommended. Fertilizer and lime applications should be made months ahead of transplanting, or at least two months after; never at the time of planting. In the winter the cold frames should receive hay or straw protection in addition to glass. Early in the spring when the young seedlings begin to push their way up, they should be transplanted into wooden bands, 3 x 3 x 4, kept in the cold frame for five or six weeks, and set out in their permanent place. This reduces transplanting losses to the minimum. In warmer regions a northern exposure is preferable; in cooler regions full sunlight is the most beneficial. If you are located in a region where mildew is prevalent, dust with sulfur. Cyclamen mite may be controlled with rotenone. The symptoms of this pest manifest themselves in the form of a gnarled appearance of growing tips and buds, a purplish black color, and a general stunting. Remove all parts thus affected, and burn. It will be still more effective if you remove all parts above the ground; then spray or dust liberally with rotenone. The second growth will be free from the pest. Do this to all plants after the first

and the second blooming; and again late in the fall. This will save yourself a lot of grief. There is nothing you can do against crown rots. Dig up at once any plant thus affected, together with the soil around it, and throw in the fire, otherwise the rot will spread and wipe out all your plants in no time. After the spikes attain some length, they should be supported with bamboo canes six feet long, and successively tied to the very tip of the flowering spike. Older plants do not need winter protection. They should be fertilized at least twice a year, once before each blooming. Smaller amounts of fertilizers applied at more frequent intervals, will give excellent results. Any complete fertilizer will do the work. Broadcast and lightly work in."

NOW OBEY THAT IMPULSE—

Seed Offerings for 1946-47

1. **BLUE-MAUVES:** The outer sepals sky blue, the inners soft mauve. Or the two colors may be charmingly blended. Golden yellow eyes, brown eyes, black eyes, lavender eyes, large and prominent; or there may be no eyes. Enormous flowers and enormous, well shaped spikes are here. The architecture of the spike reaches its perfection in this group.
2. **SAPPHIRE-PURPLES:** The colors are intense, vivid, sparkling, full of a pagan luminosity. The outer sepals are deep blue, the inners royal purple. Or the two colors may be blended, fused, with a mosaic of patterns rarely seen. White eyes, yellow eyes, brown eyes, black eyes, beautifully matching or contrasting, are strikingly displayed by the huge flowers and spikes.
3. **ORCHIDS:** Self colors in various soft and clear shades of orchids; delicate blushes on white background; smokies of infinite charm, and many tints impossible to describe but easy to fall in love with. Big, very big flowers, perfectly formed; broad and circular, as well as narrow, aster-like, with matching or contrasting eyes. To see these is to be captivated for life.
4. **ROYAL PURPLES:** Scintillating, regal colors, absolutely self. Deep orchid, plum purple, bluish purple, with white eyes for startling contrast, with brown eyes, with golden eyes, or with no eyes at all. Large, beautifully formed flowers on spikes of perfect architecture. A rippling luminosity and a durable satisfaction come with this group.
5. **BLUES:** Soft sky blues, ultramarine blues, blues of all shades possessing a purity of color that was only a dream but few years ago. Individual flowers satisfactorily large; spikes long and graceful.
6. **SNOW-WHITES:** Here we offer you whites that are truly masterpieces. Individual flowers up to 3¾ inches across. Broad sepals; flat, circular flowers; beautiful eyes in white, in honey color, in black, in brown, in gold. The substance of the sepals is very heavy, and the colors the purest white.
7. **MIXTURES:** If you need only one packet of seeds, choose this. It contains all the colors described above. *The quality is absolutely the same.*

Prices

All seeds \$2.50 per packet. Cash with order. No C.O.D. orders.

About the Lyondel Hybrid Daylilies

You who are familiar with our work with daylilies during past years know that we offer for sale only seeds. The plants — seedlings now or named varieties when they are available — are distributed by Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio. The seeds we offer are cross pollenized by hand, using as parents only such specimens as we consider distinctive in color, form, or texture. To be good enough for use, really, a blossom must show a combination of unusual characteristics. Where we have a specimen that has striking color but texture not up to standard it is crossed with one of superior texture and seeds from the combination are kept in our garden for observation of the progeny rather than put upon the market. As is true with any hybrid there will be some plants from your seeds which are not unusual but because of the many years of careful breeding and selection back of them you will have some that will delight the eye of the true flower lover. Like many of our customers in the past you will be repaid (oftimes with a single specimen) for your expenditure of time, effort and money. Then, too, you will have the thrill that comes with watching each plant for something new and different as it blooms for the first time. When you happen to get a blossom that pleases you particularly, you will have the great satisfaction that goes with the knowledge that you have it in your garden years ahead of those who wait until it is introduced by some commercial grower who must propagate in quantity if he is to make it worthwhile to himself.

Truly you get *Tomorrow's Daylilies Today!*

How to Grow Daylilies from Seed

“Seeds may be sown either in the fall or in the spring. Fill the flats or the pots with rich garden soil, and plant the seeds. In about ten days or two weeks the seedlings will be up. However some of the seeds will remain dormant for months or even for a year, therefore the soil should not be discarded too soon. Upon the approach of winter months, the flats or the pots should be taken indoors, to a sunny window or to a greenhouse. If such facilities are lacking, it is best to delay the sowing of the seeds until the following spring because some of the seedlings might not be able to withstand the severe winters of some parts of our country. This applies only to the young, tender seedlings, as the mature plants can tolerate much cold. If allowed to grow through the winter months, the seedlings will become quite husky. By early spring they may be transplanted to wooden or paper bands, set out in the cold frame to harden and to establish themselves, and finally transplanted to their permanent place. Some may bloom the same year, but usually it takes two years from seed for the blossoms to appear. If sown in the spring, the seedlings should not be disturbed until the following spring; but where winters are mild, they may be transplanted in the fall.”

Seed Offerings for **1946-47**

“1. **THE RED GROUP:**—included here are all shades of red from deepest, darkest red to scarlet, ruby, cherry, and deep rose. No muddy colors, no brownish or fulvous cast are present in the parent plants. And while hybrids should not be expected to breed true, there will be many seedlings as good as, and even better than the parents. There are many “red” hemerocallis now on the market, glowingly and extravagantly described, but in reality there are very few REDS. I bring to you vivid, joyous, dazzling colors that will ripple and splash against your

happy eyes. Also there will be a great many forms of flowers: broad sepals and petals opening flat and circular; or funnel shape, amaryllis-like; and long, narrow sepals and petals like the flowers of gigantic azaleas, several of them opening together in one cluster. There will be large flowers and small ones; tall scapes and short scapes, and all the graduations in between. All these apply to the other colors as well.

2. **THE MAROON GROUP:**—maroons so dark as to seem black; wine purple, plum purple, mulberry, old rose, and all intermediate shades are here. Rich, he-man colors, intoxicating and irresistible.

3. **PASTEL SHADES:**—the most unusual colors and color combinations are here. Softest, glowing, silvery salmons, pinks, lavender, peach blush, light rose, raspberry pink, sunset-on-clouds shades, lilac and deep cream combinations, self colors, bicolors, mixed colors, fused colors, and many soft delicate tints that cannot be described by mere words. See them, own them, and rejoice.

4. **THE MIXED GROUP:**—this is a mixture of the foregoing three color groups, and should be preferred by those who intend to purchase but one packet of seeds."

The Price of Seeds

"Thirty seeds for \$2.50. The supply is very limited because many of the mother plants are shy seeders. In sending your orders, always indicate a second choice because I expect to be sold out of certain items in a big hurry."

About Lyondel Hybrid Oriental Poppies

Again we are offering seed of Lyondel Hybrid Oriental Poppies to you. Last year, for the first time in several years, we advertised seed from our best plants. During the intervening seasons Mr. Leonian had carried on an intensive program of selective breeding for tall, sturdy stems, large blossoms and disease resistance. This selective breeding was done with the shades from baby pink through watermelon pink to darker shades that were almost rose. Pale lavender, crushed raspberry and maroon were used but none of the usual red, scarlet or orange. This has produced a parent stock that will please you if you are a garden lover who enjoys something unusual in your perennial border.

The popularity of the oriental poppy as a cut flower makes our stock an appealing one to the home maker. What could be more beautiful than a crystal vase full of large blossoms in "Colossal Shades of Pink"?

How to Grow Poppies from Seed

"Seeds may be sown either in September or early in the spring. Cold frames only should be used because the roots of poppies go very deep. Mix the seeds with some fine dirt to prevent crowding, and sow in rows right on the surface of the seed-bed. Press them down firmly by a piece of 2 x 4, place two thicknesses of damp cheesecloth over the surface and water thoroughly but gently. Put glass on the frame to prevent rains from beating down the seeds and seedlings, but shade the glass with a piece of burlap. When the seedlings begin to come up, remove the cheesecloth. As it begins to get cooler, remove the burlap. By the time freezing weather arrives, the seedlings will be large enough to winter over very well with glass protection alone. If your seasons are not long enough, sow in the spring. The seedlings should not be disturbed until the following September; then they may be transplanted to a temporary or permanent bed. The newly transplanted seedlings should

receive mulch protection the first winter; after that none is necessary.

Success or failure with poppies will depend upon one important factor, namely drainage. On poorly drained lands poppies will be a dismal failure, while on well drained land they will grow like weeds and will be hard to eradicate. Before deciding to grow poppies, you should determine if they can be grown successfully under your climatic conditions."

Seed Offerings For **1946-47**

"This year the seeds are offered in one group only, a mixture of plum purples, various shades of maroon, different intensities of mauve and lavender selfs, salmon pinks, apple blossom pinks, watermelon pinks, and fused shades rarely if ever seen before. Some reds, oranges, and scarlets are likely to be present among your seedlings, but they will constitute a comparatively small percentage of the lot."

Prices

Two dollars a packet.

In Conclusion

If you have read this letter up to this point you are interested in seeds of delphinium, poppies and daylilies. There are a few notes which will be helpful:

Delphinium and poppy seed are sent out as soon after July 20th as they mature but daylily seed ripens later and will be mailed separately.

If you follow directions you should have good germination. In case of failure we shall follow our usual policy of replacement where the grower has been fair — if we have any left when you write.

Visitors are welcome at our garden during the June blooming period. However, one should not expect a large showing because the space is small and we have always worked to have quality rather than quantity.

If you live in West Virginia 2% sales tax should be included with your order.

If you have never grown delphinium you should get your experience with less valuable seeds. Come to us when you feel sure of success in matters of care and handling.

If you buy from us this year put in your order early so you will be sure to get it filled.

We wish you luck.

LYONDEL GARDENS

Morgantown, W. Va.